

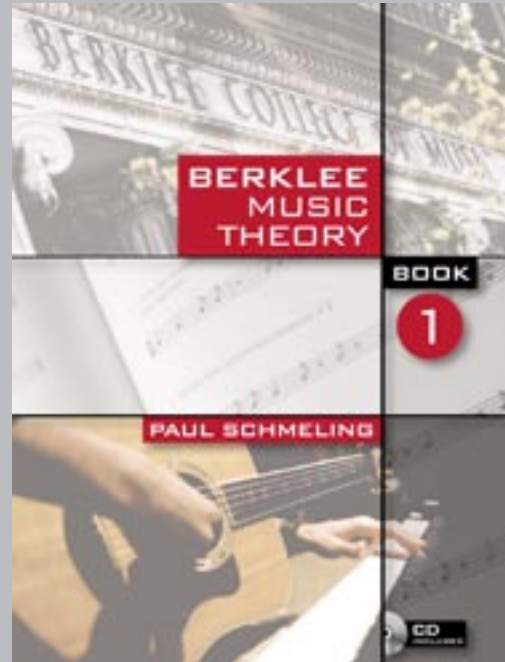
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## **Berklee Music Theory: Book 1**

Paul Schmeling

Lesson 7: Rhythmic Notation



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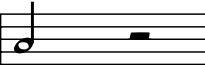



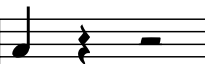


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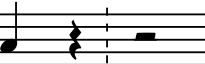


# Lesson 7. Rhythmic Notation Guidelines

The same rhythm can be written in different ways. Always try to use the simplest way so the notation is easy to read. Here are some basic guidelines.

**Guideline 1:** It is usually better to use one note or rest of longer duration than to tie together two or more smaller values.

<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 	<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 
<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 	<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 

**Guideline 2:** Think of each  $\frac{4}{4}$  measure as being divided into two halves, between beats 2 and 3. Complete each side of the measure, keeping the third beat visible.

<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 	<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 
<p>1    2      3    4</p>	<p>1    2      3    4</p>	<p>1    2      3    4</p>	<p>1    2      3    4</p>

**Guideline 3:** Only half notes or larger can be written over the imaginary line between beats 2 and 3—and only if they begin on the beat.

<p><b>On beat 1</b></p> 	<p><b>On beat 2</b></p> 	<p><b>On beat 2</b></p> 
<p>1    2      3    4</p>	<p>1    2      3    4</p>	<p>1    2      3    4</p>

This rule does not apply to rest values.

<p><b>Incorrect</b></p> 	<p><b>Correct</b></p> 
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